Data and Governance Workgroup
Presentation and Discussion of Preliminary Findings and Recommendations:

I. Update on Progress and Strategy:
    - Research and communication with states that have already implemented Early Childhood Education programs
        - Thus far, we have spoken with Maryland (DECD) and Georgia (DECAL)
    - Other prospective states to reach out to include Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Washington, Colorado
    - Other resources utilized: National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), Virginia Longitudinal Data Systems (VLDS), Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy, Stanford Social Innovation Review, Early Childhood Data Collaborative

II. Results of Preliminary Conversations:
    - There are multiple approaches available:
        - Georgia: consolidation/standalone new department
        - Maryland: state-level office within existing state department (DOE)
    - Data component is less clearly defined, but priorities include ensuring clear lines of communication and access to data both within and across agencies
    - All are strongly enthusiastic about the benefits of alignment

III. Key Findings: Georgia and Maryland
    - Enhanced efficiency across departments and built greater culture of education
    - Improved regulatory mechanisms: able to consolidate, coordinate standards of care
    - Childcare licensing and Pre-K better aligned
    - Alignment supports better data sharing across agencies and departments
    - More efficient uses of funding streams—cut down considerably on duplicative contracts and competition for funding
        - E.g. Georgia: Foundation partnerships are a major component; way to raise private funds to assist DECAL's priorities
    - Some reorganizational costs to be expected; long-term savings from consolidation
        - E.g. Maryland fiscal impact: ~$6m in costs with $3.5m in net gains
    - Programs included: Head Start, VPI, childcare licensing, nutrition, educational standards for Pre-K/school readiness, referrals, childcare subsidies, mental health

IV. Preliminary Concepts for Virginia
    1. Create one agency
    2. Include all relevant children's programs, including home visiting and mental health
    3. Create governing board
    4. Utilize private funding paths for specific program funding
    5. Make sure all agencies are sharing relevant data